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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W (JHUNTER/ESPRUILL), OES (DWOOD), EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT (MSZYMANSKI) USDA FOR FAS (SFROGGETT)

E.O. 12958

TAGS: EAGR ECON ETRD SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE RESPONSE TO CARTAGENA PROTOCOL

REF: STATE 11910

Acting Poloff discussed the reftel meeting with officials in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has a research and policy unit currently working on a number of issues, including the Cartagena Protocol, but does not plan to send a delegation to the meeting in Mexico City. The ministry's research unit welcomed further discussion regarding the Sierra Leonean position and U.S. concerns about the Protocol. Post will report any further discussions septel, as needed.

PERRY